

Leave No Soldier Behind

New Beginnings in Iraq

Science on the Battlefield

The Official U.S. Army Magazine

April 2005
www.soldiersmagazine.com

Soldiers

A Tradition of
**Airborne
Excellence**

Earth Day Poster
PAGE 32



Cover Story — Page 24
Ensuring paratroopers have the tools and equipment they need is the job of the Airborne and Special Operations Test Directorate at Fort Bragg, N.C.
— Photo by K. Kassens

CONTE

Soldiers | April 2005 | Vol 1





Page 40



Page 16



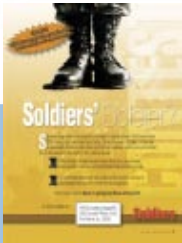
Page 18



Page 44

Features

Movement Masters	8
In war, nothing happens until something moves. And the movement that supplies the Army in Iraq is managed by the 7th Transportation Group.	
With the Hell Hounds	16
The Soldiers of the Army Reserve's 810th Military Police Company are among those who escort U.S. supply convoys into Iraq.	
New Beginnings in Iraq	18
Cooperation between civil-affairs Soldiers and Iraqis is helping to rebuild the infrastructure of Mosul.	
A Tradition of Airborne Excellence	24
The Airborne and Special Operations Test Directorate ensures that airborne Soldiers have the equipment they need to succeed.	
A Trove of History's Treasures	29
A state-of-the-art archival facility at the U.S. Army Military History Institute is a repository for millions of the Army's most important documents.	
Recycling Old Buildings	30
What's the best way to ensure the proper recycling of the materials in old buildings on Army posts? Make demolishing them profitable.	
Leave No Soldier Behind	40
The Army Personnel Recovery Office is working to develop the training Soldiers need to perform immediate battlefield-rescue operations.	
Science on the Battlefield	44
This year's Army Science Conference introduced new devices and equipment that are already changing the way Soldiers do business.	



Do You Know a Soldiers' Soldier?

Send us your nominee..... details on page 23.

Departments

2	Mail Call
4	On Point
34	Sharp Shooters
36	Legal Forum
38	Message Center
48	Focus On People

AS the Army's missions continue to expand, **Soldiers** magazine is more dependant than ever on the articles and photographs submitted by the Soldiers and DA civilians in the areas where those operations are happening.

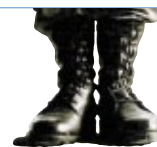
One example is this month's cover story by LTC Keith Walter, "A Tradition of Airborne Excellence," which reveals the mission of the Airborne and Special Operations Test Directorate at Fort Bragg, N.C. Another example is a story by MSG Jack Gordon, "New Beginnings in Iraq," an account of the 416th Civil Affairs Battalion's efforts to rebuild infrastructure and train local security forces in Nineveh Province. Then, reporting on how Soldiers receive the supplies that make such efforts possible, staff writer

Steve Harding reports on the 7th Transportation Group's role in moving the vast tide of materiel that must flow into Iraq from staging areas in Kuwait.

Highlighting the Army's commitment to the environment, Neal Snyder of the Army Environmental Center reports on "Recycling Old Buildings," an ongoing activity at several installations that

gives new life to old building materials. Also in this issue, you'll find a poster commemorating the 35th anniversary of Earth Day. Another important anniversary this month is the birthday of the Army Reserve, which was established on April 23, 1908.

Gil High
Gil High
Editor in Chief



Soldiers

The Official U.S. Army Magazine

Secretary of the Army
Francis J. Harvey

Chief of Staff
GEN Peter J. Schoomaker

Chief of Public Affairs
BG Vincent K. Brooks

Chief, Command Information
COL Randy Pullen

Soldiers Staff

Editor in Chief: Gil High

Production Editor: Steve Harding

Art Director: Helen Hall VanHoose

Senior Editor: Heike Hasenauer

Associate Art Director: Paul Henry Crank

NCOIC: MSG Lisa Gregory

Photo Editor: SFC Antony Joseph

Photojournalist: Beth Reece

Special Products Editor: Don Wagner

Graphic Designer: LeRoy Jewell

Executive Secretary: Arthur Benckert

Printing: Gateway Press, Inc., Louisville, Ky

Soldiers (ISSN 0093-8440) is published monthly by the Army Chief of Public Affairs to provide the Total Army with information on people, policies, operations, technical developments, trends and ideas of and about the Department of the Army. The views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army.

■ Send submissions and correspondence to Editor, **Soldiers**, 9325 Gunston Road, Suite S108, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5581. Phone: DSN 656-4486 or commercial 703-806-4486, or send e-mail to soldiers@belvoir.army.mil.

■ Unless otherwise indicated (and except for "by permission" and copyright items), material may be reprinted provided credit is given to **Soldiers** and the author.

■ All uncredited photographs by U.S. Army.

■ **Military distribution:** From the U.S. Army Distribution Operations Facility, 1655 Woodson Road, St. Louis, MO 63114-6181, in accordance with Initial Distribution Number (IDN) 050007 subscription requirements submitted by commanders.

■ The Secretary of the Army has determined that the publication of this periodical is necessary in the transaction of the public business as required by law of the department. Funds for printing this publication were approved by the Secretary of the Army in accordance with the provisions of Army Regulation 25-30. Library of Congress call number: U1.A827.

■ Periodicals postage paid at Fort Belvoir, VA, and additional mailing offices.

■ **Individual subscriptions:** Subscriptions can be purchased through the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.

■ **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to the Fort Belvoir address above.

Soldiers

Recipient of Awards of Magazine Excellence



Thomas Jefferson Awards
Outstanding Flagship Publication
2004



Silver and Bronze
Avril Awards
2002 and 2003



NAGC Blue Pencil
Competition
2004

Abu Ghraib

HEIKE Hasenauer's November article on Abu Ghraib Prison and the abuses that took place there was excellent!

The Soldiers who were tried and convicted deserve their sentences, since they committed serious crimes. These Soldiers do not, however, deserve to be made into scapegoats for failed policies, poor leadership, appalling prison management and ineffective policy makers. By laying blame for this scandal on some unfortunate and ill-trained enlisted Soldiers, the Army and the Pentagon successfully protect those higher up in the chain of command who should have stopped what was happening at Abu Ghraib, who ordered the abuses, who never properly trained the Soldiers serving as guards, or who were not aware of what was occurring in that prison, but should have been.

There is no possible way that prisoner abuses of this magnitude could possibly have taken place without the acquiescence of higher headquarters, or the dereliction of duty by senior leaders who did not notice what was happening in Abu Ghraib.

SSG Thomas P. Murt
via e-mail

Navy Birthday

THIS is in reference to SFC Regensburg's comment about "Battle Dates" in the December 2004 issue. His last statement is that the U.S. Navy wasn't established until Nov. 28, 1775.

Sorry, but that's not right, either. If you look at the Navy's official Web site, it says the birth of the Navy occurred on Oct. 13, 1775, which makes more sense because the Navy is the second-oldest service after the Army. Since the Marine Corps' birthday is Nov. 10, 1775, the Navy's couldn't have been Nov. 28, 1775.

MAJ Joe Hamlet
Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

AND it must be upsetting for the Navy that the first American warships belonged to the Army. GEN George Washington ordered the creation of

a small force of blockading warships manned by Soldiers of the Continental Army. The first of eight vessels, the 78-ton schooner Hannah, was commissioned on Aug. 24, 1775.

Back to Khaki

I TREMENDOUSLY enjoyed reading "Tracing Army Green" in your February 2005 issue.

How the soldierly khaki uniforms came to be replaced by the "corporate America" style Army green uniforms was one of the great mysteries of the 20th century to myself and many other Soldiers. Just as mysterious is how an obviously ugly and unpopular uniform has lasted so long.

Given the opportunity, I would pay out of my own pocket to wear the World War II-style khakis as my Class A and Class B uniform. Let's return to the uniform of the "Greatest Generation," the uniform of hard work and victory, the khaki uniform.

SPC J. Dow Covey
via e-mail

EIB vs. CIB

HAVING recently served in Iraq, I would like to respond to CW2 Thiesmeyer's February letter concerning the prestige of the EIB and CIB. I know many soldiers who qualify for both awards. Almost all of them would rather wear the EIB for a couple of reasons.

First, the standards for the CIB recently changed to make anyone with an 11-series MOS eligible for the award simply by virtue of having served for 30 days "in theater." This standard applies whether or not the Soldier has actually been in direct contact with the enemy. For this reason, many of the infantry Soldiers I served with felt the award had been cheapened.

Second, as one of the Soldiers mentioned above put it to me, "Anybody can get shot at; you actually have to earn the EIB." For that reason, he and several of his friends choose to wear the EIB.

CPT Wayne Williams
via e-mail

The CIB (and the CMB for that matter) is a symbol of experience — a very tough experience no one in his or her right mind would ever intentionally want to earn.

However, the global war on terrorism must have somehow changed the standard for the criteria that must be met in order to wear either of these "coveted" badges. I have talked to far too many people who are wearing these badges who (from my understanding of the regulation) do not meet the standard.

The approving authorities need to really examine the recommendations for not just these, but all awards. The CIB and CMB are not blanket awards for everyone in the unit. When you drop the standard to award these badges and medals, you not only make them less special, but it is also a smack in the face to the people who have truly earned them.

If you know in your heart that you do not meet the criteria for the CIB, just think about that Army value called "integrity," because sooner or later you will run into someone who knows better.

As for the EIB (and EFMB) these are symbols of expertise. If everyone had one it would mean about as much as a unit patch.

SPC Robert J. White Jr.
via e-mail

Soldiers values your opinion

To comment, keep your remarks to under 150 words, include your name, rank and address and send them to:

Mail Call, Soldiers,
9325 Gunston Road, Ste. S108,
Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5581,
or e-mail: soldiers@belvoir.army.mil



For links to the Army News Service and Soldiers Radio Live, visit www.army.mil



Get DOD News at www.defenselink.mil







◀ **Kuwait**

PFC Tiffany Brewer of the 1st Armored Division rinses off the underside of a vehicle while preparing to redeploy.

— SPC Scott Akanewich



▲ Iraq

SGT Mark Jones plays with an Iraqi child. The Soldiers in Jones' unit have become familiar with the child from their patrols and often stop to play with the youngster.

— Photo by SSG Rebekah-mae Bruns

◀ Kuwait

SPC Christian Mena, a mechanic with the 276th Maintenance Company, uses a plasma cutter to smooth the edges of a Level-3 armor plate.

— Photo by SPC Curt Cashour



▲ Japan

CPT Daniel Rice, the 78th Aviation Battalion's S-3, watches as a pilot from his unit attempts to land on the USS *Cowpens*, a Yokosuka-based cruiser, during deck-landing qualification training.

— Photo by PFC Matthis Chiroux

► Iraq

The lead Humvee from Border Team 3 follows an Iraqi truck during a border-patrol mission through the snow-covered Meshla Mountains.

— SGT Sean Kimmons



▲ Iraq

Scouts from Task Force 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, sweep an area along the Euphrates River searching for hidden weapon caches.

— Photo by SPC Andy Miller

Movement

Story and Photos by Steve Harding

THERE'S an old saying that, in war, "nothing happens until something moves."

AND the movement that feeds, supplies and equips the U.S. Army in Iraq — a vast tide of materiel that flows into the country each day from staging areas in Kuwait — is managed by the 7th Transportation Group.

A Unit on the Move

Based at Fort Eustis, Va., the 7th Grp. conducts multi-modal transportation operations — on land and sea, by truck and by boat — in support of the reception, staging and onward movement of joint and combined forces. It's the only composite

transportation group in the Army and, as such, it's also among the service's most-deployed organizations.

"We're always on the move," said group commander COL Jeff Miser. "And that's more true today than ever."

Five of the group's eight battalions and some 5,000 of its 8,000 Soldiers are currently based in Kuwait and Iraq, with Miser and his group headquarters working out of Camp Arifjan. From there, Miser and his staff direct an organization that includes both active and reserve-component units, and which brings a variety of skills to the mission.

"Three of my battalions here are truck units, one is a terminal battalion that also includes Army watercraft, and the fifth is a field-artillery battalion that has been tasked with convoy-security operations," Miser said.

(Continued on page 10)

Vehicles and other cargo destined for Iraq arrive at the port of Ash Shuaiba, Kuwait, aboard Military Sealift Command ships. The vessels are unloaded by Navy-supervised local stevedores, and Army units then take charge of the materiel for the trip north.



Masters



Support by Sea

WHILE the 7th Transportation Group's main mission in the Kuwait-Iraq theater is built around trucks, three Army watercraft also play a key role in ensuring that supplies and equipment get to the Soldiers who need them.

Working out of the Kuwait Naval Base, the two LCU-2000-class utility landing craft and a logistical support vessel contribute immensely to the success of the 7th Grp.'s mission, said group operations officer LTC Ron Ross.

"The watercraft run missions throughout the Persian Gulf, primarily carrying back to Kuwait equipment and vehicles that have been repaired in Bahrain and Qatar," he said. "The watercraft are a great asset, because if they weren't here we'd have to fly equipment around the Gulf, or try to ship it overland. The vessels are very cost-effective."

The watercraft are tasked by the Coalition Forces Land Component Command through 7th Group, Ross said, and their crews are given several days' warning of an impending voyage.

"We usually know about a mission three or four days in advance," said CW3 Terry V. Andreassen, vessel master of the LCU-2018, *Five Forks*, and commander of the 481st Trans. Company's Det 2. "We're always prepared to get underway at a moment's notice."

Five Forks and the other LCU are each manned by 15 Army Reservists, which is about three more Soldiers than the boats would normally be crewed by, Andreassen said. Each vessel has a range of about 10,000 miles, and can undertake a range of missions.

"In addition to transporting repaired vehicles, we've also supported dive teams, security operations and the at-sea offload of the vessel *American Cormorant*," he said.

The latter vessel — a float-on, float-off ship that unloads its deck cargo of Army watercraft by submerging until its main deck is awash — arrived in Kuwait in December with additional Army landing craft and small support vessels.

The third Army vessel currently at work in Iraq, the *LTG William B. Bunker*, is considerably larger than the two LCUs and is manned by 32 active-duty Soldiers.

"We are also tasked primarily with the intra-theater movement of repaired vehicles and other equipment," said the LSV's master, CW3 Robert Kimble, "though we can move a larger number of vehicles per trip than the LCUs."

He and his crew have been busy since arriving in the region a few months ago, he said.

"We've been underway probably three or four days a week since we've been here, though I'd like to see that be five or six days a week. The more we're underway, the more cargo we're moving," he said.

Both vessel masters had nothing but praise for their crews and the job they're doing.

"These Soldiers really want to get the job done, and they work hard," Andreassen said. "Some of the younger ones haven't got that much sea time under their belts, but they're eager to learn and they pay attention to the more experienced crew members."

"The Soldiers on my crew are almost all volunteers, and they're very squared away," Kimble said. "They understand the mission, and if they need to work 14 or 16 hours a day, they do it. I haven't heard one complaint about the workload."

"These are great Soldiers. They do what's necessary to get the job done, and they've got a great attitude," Kimble added. "They're doing an excellent job, and I couldn't be happier." — *Steve Harding*

➤ **Largest of the three Army vessels operating out of Kuwait Naval Base, the *LTG William B. Bunker* is crewed by active-duty Soldiers from Fort Eustis, Va.**



(Continued from page 8)

The group's mission in Kuwait is straightforward, said group operations officer LTC Ron Ross.

"We're here to provide combat service support to maneuver units in Operation Iraqi Freedom," he said. "That means we move all classes of supply — vehicles, equipment, ammunition, repair parts and everything else — from the port to the users in Iraq."

That supply lifeline — built of steel and rubber and flesh and blood — starts on the piers and docks of one of the busiest ports on the Persian Gulf.

From Ship to Shore

The port of Ash Shuaiba is crowded with merchant ships of all types. Among the most visible, because of their vast size, are the cargo vessels of the Military Sealift Command.

The ships arrive in Kuwait with clockwork regularity, bringing in thousands of vehicles and hundreds of cargo containers on each trip. Once the ships' cavernous holds have been emptied by Navy-supervised local drivers and stevedores, moving the mounds of materiel onward becomes the task of 7th Grp.'s 483rd Trans. Battalion.



ion, a California-based Army Reserve unit.

"This unit handles 24-hour-a-day terminal operations at the seaport of debarkation, or SPOD, here at Ash Shuaiba," said MAJ Steve MacLaughlin, the battalion's acting commander. "We do that using our two assigned cargo-transfer companies, and three Army watercraft operating out of the Kuwait Naval Base a few miles south of here." [See accompanying story.]

The 483rd's area of operations encompasses several piers, vehicle and container marshalling yards, rinse racks, and Camp Spearhead, the unit's living and administrative area, MacLaughlin said.

At the time of Soldiers' visit the 483rd was handling the deployment into theater of OIF III units, while at the same time preparing to handle the redeployment of vehicles and equipment belonging to CONUS-bound OIF II units.

"We're pretty busy right at the

moment," MacLaughlin said. "In the redeployment marshalling yard, outbound cargo is being gathered and prepared for shipment. In the inbound yards, we're overseeing the loading of vehicles and equipment onto trucks that will take them north."

Nearby, the cargo-transfer Soldiers of CPT Earl Vegafria's 567th Trans. Company were supervising the loading of Humvees onto commercial flatbed trucks, a task made more challenging by a cold winter wind and blowing rain. Deep mud covered the marshalling yard and loading ramps, causing some slips but no apparent slowdown in the level of activity.

"These Soldiers are doing a tremendous job," Vegafria said. "They've been going strong since we got here, and in the first 80 days of our deployment they've pushed more than 30,000 pieces of cargo from these yards."

(Continued on page12)

▲ Soldiers of the 567th Transportation Company load a Humvee aboard a commercial truck for movement from Ash Shuaiba to Camp Arifjan.

"We're here to provide combat service support ... we move all classes of supply — vehicles, equipment, ammunition, repair parts and everything else — from the port to the users in Iraq."

“They’re out here 24 hours a day, in all weather, doing whatever it takes to get this materiel to the Soldiers who need it,” said the 567th’s 1SG Roger Roby.

(Continued from page 11)

“They’re out here 24 hours a day, in all weather, doing whatever it takes to get this materiel to the Soldiers who need it,” said the 567th’s 1SG Roger Roby. “They know this stuff has to keep moving, and they do whatever it takes to keep up the flow.”

North to Navistar

The next stop for the northward flowing river of materiel is either Camp Arifjan or Camp Doha.

The vehicles and equipment are logged in, repaired or serviced as needed, then scheduled for delivery, either

as unit sets or individual replacements. Soldiers from 7th Grp. and supporting units load cargo containers and vehicles — some of the latter fresh out of one of the several Arifjan workshops that fit them with improved armor and ballistic glass — aboard waiting Army M-915 tractor-trailers or commercial flatbeds. The trucks then head north, bound for a place known as Navistar.

Navistar is the final staging area for convoys before they move across the border into Iraq, said LTC James R. Sagen, commander of the Fort Campbell, Ky.-based 106th Trans. Bn.

“We’re a theater asset, and our medium-truck companies pick up the materiel brought here from Arifjan and Doha and move it north,” Sagen said. “We’ve got a couple of facilities in this same area, including a motor pool, a battalion operations center, and south- and north-bound staging areas.”

The south-bound staging area is where the personnel operating the convoys coming out of Iraq are debriefed and where their vehicles are refueled for the drive to Arifjan or Doha.

◀ Signs in both English and Arabic ensure that drivers can find their way out of Ash Shuaiba.

▼ Vehicles arriving at the port are loaded aboard commercial trucks at a marshalling yard a few hundred meters from the pier.



➤ As this sign indicates, the cargo-handling effort at Ash Shuaiba is a combined U.S.-Kuwaiti effort.

The north-bound staging area, on the other hand, is where convoys headed into Iraq are assembled, and where the military and contract civilian drivers are briefed on the latest enemy activity, Sagen said. It's also where the convoys hook up with their escort vehicles — heavily armed and ar-

(Continued on page 14)



Riding Shotgun

PROVIDING security for convoys moving north out of the Navistar staging area on the Kuwait-Iraq border, and defending those convoys when necessary, is the mission of the 518th Convoy Security Company.

A provisional unit, the 518th is composed of active-duty, National Guard and Army Reserve Soldiers. It was formed in early 2004 in response to the then-frequent attacks on virtually undefended convoys, said 1LT James L. McCormick of the Ohio Army National Guard's 1487th Transportation Co.

"We were seeing a lot of insurgent activity, especially in April, and convoys were pretty much certain to get hit every time they went out," said McCormick, who was closely involved in the creation of the 518th. "We realized that we needed to get more security out on the road, and that was sort of how the idea for armored escort vehicles was born."

McCormick said that in late April 2004 CPT Robert Landry of the Army Reserve's 375th Trans. Group, working with the group's commander, developed a plan to organize the needed unit.

"They went through the various units that had been involved in the major firefights of March and April and started picking out Soldiers who had proved themselves during those fights," McCormick said. "They pulled us all together — about 100 folks from the regular Army, the Guard and the Reserve — and moved us to Camp Buerhing, Kuwait, and gave us three weeks to get up and running."

The fledgling unit's Soldiers equipped two dozen Humvees with improvised armor and heavy-caliber weapons, and began developing the tactics, techniques and procedures that they'd take on the road.

"By the time we were mission-capable we had 68 people and 23 vehicles, and we escorted every convoy," McCormick said. "We'd go out on a mission, then come back and get maybe one 'down' day to clean weapons and do laundry. Then we'd hit the road again. It was just a continuous cycle."

In many ways, it still is, said CPT Thelonious McLean-Burrell, the 518th's

current commander.

"These Soldiers stay busy, because there are always convoys moving north from here," he said. "But no matter how busy it gets, these Soldiers have to stay motivated and alert, because their lives and the lives of the convoy drivers depend on it."

And that alertness kicks in the minute the vehicles roll across the border, said SPC Tyler Peters, a member of the Nebraska National Guard's 1075th Trans. Co. who volunteered for duty with the 518th.

While Peters was manning his vehicle's roof-mounted and turreted .50-caliber machine gun on the day of Soldiers' visit, he said that he and the Humvee's driver switch positions frequently.

"It helps keep you fresh and ensures that everybody in the vehicle can do each job," he said.

Each of the escort Humvees is commanded by a sergeant, said SGT Terence Jancheck, another 1075th Trans. Co. Soldier serving with the 518th. And the vehicle commander might also be called upon to act as security commander for the entire convoy.

"If you're in charge of just your own vehicle, you're responsible for everything that happens in that vehicle," Jancheck said. "If there is some kind of threat to your vehicle, you decide how to react to the threat. If we're receiving fire, for example, I have the authority to give the command to return fire."

The secret to success in the convoy-escort business, McCormick said, is twofold.

"To do the convoy-escort job you have to have two things," he said. "The first is courage, and the second is heart. If you come into this just to win a medal, you will — posthumously. You have to be 100-percent dedicated to doing this job the best you can, because your life and the lives of many others depend on it. If your heart is not in it, if you're not willing to find, fix and fire and stay in the kill zone in order to protect that convoy, you need to find another job." — *Steve Harding*



Crews of escort Humvees await another mission at Navistar, a convoy staging area on the Kuwait-Iraq border. The vehicles are armored and carry a variety of automatic weapons.



▲ Much of the cargo moving north from Navistar is carried aboard heavily armored M-915 trucks, seen here lined up next to their Humvee escorts.

(Continued from page 13)

mored Humvees of a specialized convoy-escort unit provisionally designated the 518th Convoy Security Co. [See sidebar on page 13.]

“At various points along the route of travel the convoys pick up new escorts, while the previous escorts either return to base or pick up a southbound convoy,” Sagen said.

Most of the 106th’s taskings are what’s known as “common user land-transport missions,” which result from a request by a field unit. The request is passed to the 106th’s planners by the movement-control team, and a convoy is assembled to carry the needed materiel to the requested location.

“Those are our ‘bread-and-butter’ missions,” Sagen said, “in that they make up most of our day-to-day taskings. But we also have another, more specialized mission.”

“At various points along the route of travel the convoys pick up new escorts, while the previous escorts either return to base or pick up a southbound convoy,” Sagen said.

The Iraqi Express

That other mission is the Iraqi Express, a daily convoy that comes out of the theater distribution center at Camp Doha and goes to Camp Anaconda, north of Baghdad. The convoy carries mostly repair parts and components.

“The ‘Iraqi Express’ usually consists of 30 to 40 trucks loaded with prioritized cargo,” Sagen said. The trucks’ loads are assembled either at Ash Shuaiba or Camp

Doha, and are then staged at Navistar. Once across the border, the convoy usually stops for one night at a convoy-support center, then takes one of several possible routes on to Camp Anaconda.

Once the convoy reaches Anaconda, the trucks are unloaded and then are reloaded with “back haul” items — damaged vehicles, surplus equipment or other materials — that are scheduled for return to Kuwait.

In a typical mixed convoy, Army transport trucks will be about every fourth truck, separated by commercial vehicles, Sagen said. The convoy escort vehicles are normally at the front, middle and end.

“The roundtrip to Baghdad for the ‘Iraqi Express’ usually takes four days,” he said. “And it can be a very challenging trip.”

A Difficult Road

Whether running the Iraqi Express or one of the other convoy missions, Soldiers face many challenges on the road, Sagen said.

(Continued on page 16)



▲ An escort Humvee follows a convoy back over the border into Kuwait following a successful run. The safe return of all the trucks and their crews, whether military or civilian, is a priority.

(Continued from page 14)

“Operating these convoys is very demanding on the Soldiers, whether they’re in the trucks or the escort vehicles,” he said. “What they experience out on the roads is both physically and mentally demanding.”

The most obvious threat is that of enemy attack — and convoys are frequently hit by small-arms fire and RPGs. Fortunately, the vast majority of the trucks — and all of the Humvees — sport considerable armor.

“The armor will stop just about anything, and it makes us feel relatively safe,”

said PFC Thomas Smith, an M-915 truck driver with the Iowa National Guard’s 2168th Trans. Co. “We’ve been in Iraq for a year, and the unit hasn’t had anyone killed or wounded.”

Even without an insurgent attack, the trips into and out of Iraq are hard going, Sagen said.

“These Soldiers can be on the road for 14 hours at a stretch. Parts of the MSR are unpaved, which makes for bumpy and dusty conditions. And then there is the sheer amount of activity on the road,” he said. “When you’re driving this route,

there are usually other convoys in front of you and behind you, and there are breakdowns, occasional accidents and traffic jams. There is always something happening.”

The secret to a successful trip, Smith said, “is to just try to stay alert and really pay attention to every single thing that’s going on around the vehicle. We all just want to get the job done well, and make it home to our families. That’s what we focus on.”

“These are absolutely superior Soldiers,” Sagen said. “And I think the thing



On the Road With the

Hell Hounds

Story and Photos by MSG Jack Gordon

“We have problems every time we go out. A problem can arise at any moment.”

AT the Navistar convoy-support center on the northern edge of Kuwait’s border with Iraq, the sound of tapping valves under the dusty hoods of several Humvees fills the diesel-scented air.

It’s 5 a.m. and the vehicles have just been “topped off” for the trip north. Already it’s hot outside.

SSG Roland Sioris finishes up his threat-condition briefing to Soldiers from the 810th Military Police Company, an Army Reserve unit from Tampa, Fla.

Sioris tells the group about an improvised-explosive-device explosion that morning and warns the Soldiers about enemy ambushes.

They listen intently to the warnings of what might lie ahead on their next journey

MSG Jack Gordon is a member of the 99th Reserve Support Command.

that really allows them to do this job day in and day out is confidence. We have a very good maintenance program, so the Soldiers know they can depend on their vehicles. We also have been able to armor all our vehicles, which also inspires confidence, as does the presence of dedicated convoy-escort vehicles. I think that all of those factors combine to produce a real sense of confidence, and teamwork, in our Soldiers.”

A Team Effort

That sense of teamwork is what keeps

the flow of equipment and supplies rolling into Iraq, Miser said, despite the challenges inherent in operating in a combat environment.

“The 7th Transportation Group is in Iraq every day, and we are pushing as far forward as any divisional unit that is in this theater,” he said. “Since we took over the mission in September of 2004, we have had more than 300 of our convoys attacked by insurgents, and we’ve had more than 40 group personnel wounded in action.

“But we focus on the mission, and we

carry out that mission 24 hours a day,” he said. “That sense of getting the mission done, of giving the Soldiers up north what they need, forges a sense of teamwork that is the secret to the success of this whole effort. I would gladly put these Soldiers up against any other Soldiers that came before us or will come after us.”

For more on the history and operations of the 7th Transportation Group, visit www.eustis.army.mil/7grp/grp7/7th_Group_HTML.htm.

through Iraq.

“This is our mission now,” said SGT Thomas Sirico, who said that since his unit’s deployment to southwest Asia was extended in May 2004, the 810th switched from providing support to U.S. Customs Service operations in Kuwait to conducting convoy-security operations into Iraq.

“We meet the convoy here in the staging lanes, mesh into the trucks as they depart, take them where they need to go and come back,” Sirico said. To ensure the safety of the supply movement, the unit provides six heavily armed Humvees,

traveling to some of the most northerly forward-operating bases in Iraq.

The drive to Baghdad may take as long as 16 hours. A more distant trip can take as long as four days, he said.

The long days demand the Soldiers’ full attention, since attacks on U.S. operations throughout Iraq have been dramatically increasing.

“You have to keep an eye on everything,” said driver SPC Corey Campbell. “During the longer trips, I switch jobs with my gunner. That way we both have the opportunity to either drive or man the

vehicle’s weapon, and the change keeps us more alert.”

“We call the convoy-security operation the ‘Iraqi Express,’ and we have encounters every time we go out,” said SPC Charles Spencer. “A problem can arise at a moment’s notice, such as when a vehicle suddenly stops or enters the convoy. Even normal traffic in Iraq, resulting from people just going to or coming home from work, can create problems for us.

“We’ve all learned to deal with the stress of being here,” Spencer said of the missions into Iraq. In Kuwait, the Soldiers from the 810th can be a bit more laid back, he said. “But as soon as we cross the border, we put on a whole different face. We become the ‘Hell Hounds.’”

Amid the revving of truck engines, shouts and hand signals for the Soldiers in the security-escort vehicles to “saddle-up” and prepare to move, they make final adjustments to their weapons and goggles. Then the lead vehicle pulls out, its tires crunching gravel.

The Hell Hounds are off — on the road again — on another mission.



◀ A Soldier of the Army Reserve’s 810th Military Police Company gives the “thumbs up” as he prepares to move out on an early morning convoy-security mission.

New Beginnings in Iraq

Story and Photos by MSG Jack Gordon

Coached by civil-affairs Soldiers, members of the Iraqi Correctional Facility's special-response team conduct a drill in a facility under renovation.



IRAQIS in the ancient city of Mosul are continuing to rebuild their city's infrastructure with the help of Soldiers from the 416th Civil Affairs Battalion, an Army Reserve unit from Norristown, Pa.

CPT Felix Acosta is the public-safety team chief, working with the Iraqis to overcome some of the shortfalls in their city, in areas that include emergency civil response and correctional facilities.

Acosta said the 416th has made substantial progress in the province of Nineveh.

Iraqi Brig. Gen. Mohammed Mahoud, chief of civil defense for Nineveh Province, praised Acosta's team for its efforts in helping his civil-defense team acquire a renovated fire truck with a hydraulic extension ladder, an emergency first-aid vehicle and a heavily armored bomb-disposal vehicle.

MSG Jack Gordon is a member of the 99th Reserve Support Command.

"All this was made possible through the cooperation between Acosta's team and our team. We're proud to work with him, and we will continue working together," Mahoud said.

"The Iraqis we're working with are people who stayed on in civil service after Saddam's regime ended," said Acosta. "They received no pay for months, and there was no guarantee they'd keep their jobs, but they continued responding to domestic emergencies, preventing looting, as an example. So the people of Nineveh Province respect them."

When Acosta and his team first arrived, they studied various aspects of the city to best determine how they could help.

"If you don't have a good relationship with the people, you don't know their needs and priorities, and you won't get much cooperation," Acosta said. "We're trying to achieve common goals here, which include public safety and the security of this area."



▲ Prospective Iraqi corrections officers train in self-defense tactics at a facility that U.S. civil-affairs Soldiers helped procure for them.

After the focus areas were jointly developed between Acosta and the chief representatives of Nineveh's agencies, the work began — plans were made, equipment was acquired and training began.

"We had the Iraqis do practical training on vehicle extrication," said Acosta. "They're proud of their new resources."

Acosta said new uniforms provided to the rescue and fire crews help identify them to the Iraqi people, and such recognition raises awareness that Iraq is addressing the need for civil services.

Among those are the teams that respond to improvised-explosive-device incidents. Acosta said Mosul has a higher rate of IED explosions than anywhere else in Iraq.

That may well be why his team was given a specially designed truck that is intended to remove bombs, rockets and other ordnance to safe areas while blending in with everyday traffic.

The U.S. team heavily reinforced a

Acosta said the Iraqis he's working with are eager to assume responsibility for their own civil-response operations, but are equally receptive to assistance and training...

large truck, building a thick steel blast container in the truck bed.

"They are targeted because of the work they do," Acosta said of EOD response teams. "They often respond to bomb alerts while they're in civilian vehicles and wearing civilian clothing, to avoid drawing attention to themselves. Ports cut into the truck walls are not intended to provide ventilation, but allow the response team to return weapons fire."

Acosta said "bad guys" would attempt to hijack a truck containing any type of explosives they can use against coalition forces and those who support them.

So the special truck provided to Nineveh Province responders "is strong enough to withstand an AK-47 round," said Acosta. "We tested it." The truck also carries an ample supply of sand bags to contain an unexpected detonation of any ordnance within the truck's safe area.

"Before, we would always have to call the American team to respond to a report of an IED, but since we got the bomb truck we can respond ourselves," said Taha Haji Taha, chief of Nineveh's EOD squad.

Acosta said the Iraqis he's working with are eager to assume responsibility for their own civil-response operations, but are equally receptive to the assistance and training the Soldiers are able to provide. For instance, in unusual or more sophisticated bomb-disposal situations, U.S. forces will closely monitor the Iraqis' actions.

"I'm very proud of what we've been able to do here," said Acosta, referring to the equipment and on-the-job training

(Continued on page 22)

► By helping Iraqis take responsibility for their prisons, Soldiers are both helping the Iraqi government and freeing up U.S. personnel for other tasks.



► Members of Nineveh Province's fire-fighting team suit up (*inset, below*) and then train on their new "cherry picker" rig.

Soldiers have provided to the Iraqis.

Another major focus in Nineveh Province is Iraq's prison system. The 214th's Soldiers have worked closely with officials in the province to train guards and special-response teams, improve living conditions and prevent potential incidents of inmate abuse.

The 214th's SFC Ron Miko oversees the training and day-to-day operations at prisons in Nineveh Province.

He said the skills of the Soldiers of the public-safety team are unequaled. "Our firefighter, for example, has 20 years of experience, and most of us have five to 10 years of experience in police work or corrections."



In Nineveh Province, Miko has focused on training a disturbance-response team to quell problems in the prison. His primary liaison is the Iraqi head of the Correctional Officer Academy, Capt. Azhar Ibrahim.

The coalition's civil-affairs program has allowed great things to happen for Iraqis, Ibrahim said. The U.S. Soldiers bring equipment and, most importantly, he said, "they teach us how to treat prisoners without violating their human rights."

The prison guards in Nineveh Province are trained to communicate better with prisoners and, if force is necessary, to use minimum force to gain cooperation.

The prison system in Nineveh Province may serve as a model facility for prisons in other areas of Iraq, Miko said. Iraq's department of justice deemed the facility and its disturbance-action plans to be a standard.

"Acosta and his team have worked very hard for us," Ibrahim said. "Now it is our turn to get all this information and training out to other areas in Iraq. I hope to make the U.S. Soldiers very proud of us. I thank everybody. They have worked from the heart with us. And they have a place in our hearts. I will miss them so much." 🇺🇸



► CPT Felix Acosta of the 416th CA Bn. poses with the daughters of some of the new Iraqi correctional officers the battalion helped train.



CALLING
all platoon sergeants, squad leaders,
section chiefs and supervisors!

DO YOU KNOW A **Soldiers'** Soldier?

Soldiers magazine is looking for a Soldier to be featured in the December 2005 issue, and we need your help. Do you know a Soldier in the rank of specialist or below who lives by the Army Values and is proud of what he or she does for the Army? If so, let us know.



This Soldier should be someone that you, as a leader, have gotten to know both professionally and personally.



To nominate a Soldier, tell us about the person and why we should feature him or her in the magazine.

Send an e-mail to [***lisa.m.gregory@us.army.mil***](mailto:lisa.m.gregory@us.army.mil)

or send a letter to

NCOIC, Soldiers Magazine
9325 Gunston Road, S108
Fort Belvoir, VA 22060

Soldiers

A Tradition of Airborne Excellence

Story by LTC Keith Walter

Harold Dixon

A test parachutist with the Airborne and Special Operations Test Directorate at Fort Bragg, N.C., jumps from a C-130 as a chase aircraft keeps watch.

ce



On August 1940 LT William T. Ryder, commander of the Army's Airborne Test Platoon, made history as the first American Soldier to make a military parachute jump.

Ryder's jump, and those made by the rest of the platoon's members, validated the airborne concept and ultimately led to the creation of the Army airborne units that distinguished themselves during World War II.

The Tradition Continues

The tradition of excellence in airborne testing established by Ryder's pioneering platoon continues today in the Airborne and Special Operations Test Directorate at Fort Bragg, N.C.

The ABNSOTD — a subcommand of U.S. Army Operational Test Command at Fort Hood, Texas — conducts operational tests on airborne and special-operations forces' equipment, procedures and systems. The majority of the organization's Soldiers and civilians are either active-duty or retired parachute riggers, or members of special forces or ranger units.

The majority of the tests the ABNSOTD conducts are on the aerial delivery of equipment, commonly known as "heavy drops." Rigging a piece of equipment for a test drop can take a few hours or several weeks, depending on the size, weight and complexity of the piece of equipment.

"The process starts with an engineer designing the airdrop kit for the test item or piece of equipment," said aerial delivery test officer Gaylin Jesmer. "The test item, rigged as it will be dropped, is lifted by a crane to a height of 12 feet, 7 inches, and then dropped to the ground, which gives an impact of 28.5 feet per second. We then totally de-rig the equipment and perform an operational performance check. If the equipment is fully operational, it's ready to be airdropped."

LTC Keith Walter is chief of the ABNSOTD's Test Division at Fort Bragg, N.C.



Test jumpers prepare for a static-line airdrop.



A V-22 Osprey delivers bundles.

After each drop the equipment is de-rigged and put into operation. Once three consecutive and successful airdrops are completed, the equipment is certified for airdrop using the ABNSOTD's validating procedures, Jesmer said.

The organization also tests new personnel parachutes, parachute components and related equipment intended for use by

airborne Soldiers.

"The ABNSOTD averages about 50 tests a year," Jesmer said. "Some tests require as few as three aerial-delivery drops, while others require several hundred live paratrooper jumps. We've tested things ranging from small night-vision goggles to the new 40,000-pound Stryker Mobile Gun System."



Harold Dixon

A Choice Assignment

Assignment to the ABNSOTD is considered a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and all nominated Soldiers are interviewed by the unit's sergeant major to determine if they have what it takes to be a test parachutist.

"When interviewing a Soldier, the first thing I look for is whether he has all the 'hooah' schools, like ranger and jumpmaster," said SGM Al Lamb. "Do those schools make him a good soldier? No, but they show he has the desire to be one."

Lamb said he looks for Soldiers who "are on top of their game every day. The riggers who do the packing, the jumpmasters who do the leading and the jumpers who do the jumping all have to be 'on' all the time. One bad day can cost a Soldier or his buddy their lives – and we can't have that!"

After getting to the unit, Soldiers work toward earning certification as test parachutists.

"The primary purpose of this certification program is to more effectively support the overall test mission and reduce risks to the end users — the Soldiers," said Sandy



A test parachutist is preceded by his drop bag.

"Some tests require as few as three aerial-delivery drops, while others require several hundred live paratrooper jumps."

White, chief of the Personnel and Special Operations Test Branch and one of the lead architects of the Test Parachutist Certification Program.

"We do this by identifying the most highly qualified parachutists for assign-

ment to the ABNSOTD, and then providing them with intensified ground training and extensive practical-exercise jumps so they become subject-matter experts who understand how to deal with and mitigate the risks," White said.

Earning the Certificate

The test parachutist certification process starts with classes and exams given by the unit's master jumpmaster, SFC Dale Tabor.

"By the time Soldiers are assigned to the ABNSOTD to become test parachutists, they have an average of 14 years of

Jumps are made at altitudes ranging from 800 to 25,000 feet and in all conditions — day and night, on land and in water — sometimes with as much as 100 pounds of additional equipment.

jump experience and 450 jumps,” Tabor said. “We expand on that foundation of experience through classes on all aspects of parachuting — from the characteristics of parachute opening to the fundamentals of testing to the characteristics of different types of canopies. After completing the classes, the Soldiers are tested on what they’ve learned.”

In addition to the mental aspects of being a subject-matter expert, Lamb expects his Soldiers to be in superior shape. Soldiers who don’t make the grade physically don’t become test parachutists, he said.

Only after they master the mental and physical challenges will Lamb authorize newly assigned Soldiers to make the first test parachutist jump. The jump must be made in direct support of a test — whether of a new aircraft, a new parachute or a new piece of accompanying equipment.

“The first test jump is a memorable experience,” said John Miller, chief of the Aerial Delivery Branch and a certified test parachutist.

“Even though I had been on jump status for several years with the 82nd Airborne Division, XVIII Abn. Corps and special forces, that first test jump was particularly memorable because I knew I was entering another elite group,” Miller said. “I consider my test-parachutist certification to be on the same level as my ranger and special-forces qualifications, because it’s something I earned.”

Education and Challenges

That first satisfactory test jump is only the beginning for the new test parachutists, who will ultimately go on to attend Jumpmaster School, Military Free-Fall

Harold Dixon



A C-17 drops low-cost aerial-delivery containers.

School and a variety of other advanced training courses.

Of course, the purpose of all that training is to be able to test Army equipment, Lamb said. Each test parachutist is expected to participate in all tests for which he is qualified. This often means making multiple jumps daily from such aircraft as the C-17, C-130, CASA-212 and UH-60. Jumps are made at altitudes ranging from 800 to 25,000 feet and in all conditions — day and night, on land and in water — sometimes with as much as 100 pounds of additional equipment.

Despite the challenges of test parachute work, duty at the ABNSOTD is both vital and personally satisfying, said CSM Pete Morakon (Ret.), who served three tours in Vietnam and has worked as an ABNSOTD civilian test officer for more than 20 years.

“It’s an honor to be a member of this organization,” he said. “Everything we do is for airborne and special-operations Soldiers. I just thank God that I am still able to contribute and that He keeps me healthy enough to do it, because I love my job!” 🚀



USAWC



A Trove of History's Treasures

Story by LTC Meredith Bucher

A STATE-of-the-art archival facility at the U.S. Army Military History Institute recently opened its doors at Carlisle Barracks, Pa., home of the U.S. Army War College.

Named in honor of GEN Matthew Ridgway — who commanded the 82nd Airborne Division during World War II and became the Army's chief of staff after the war — Ridgway Hall is a repository for millions of the Army's most important documents and artifacts. 🇺🇸

The collection includes:

- ≡ A rare book printed in 1494, featuring a Roman military manual from the fourth century;
- ≡ An unpublished, handwritten letter from Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee to one of his commanders following the Battle of Gettysburg;
- ≡ Division and regimental histories dating from the Civil War;
- ≡ A collection of about 3,000 propaganda posters, primarily from World War I and World War II;
- ≡ Veterans' surveys containing the papers, photos and artifacts of 30,000 veterans from the Spanish-American War to the Vietnam War;
- ≡ The largest collection of Civil War photographs in the world: 100,000 pictures;
- ≡ 16,000 military maps, focusing mainly on the two world wars and the Korean War;
- ≡ More than 250,000 official military publications;
- ≡ Priceless artwork and documents donated by the descendants and beneficiaries of Civil War veterans;
- ≡ A West Point photo-album yearbook from the Class of 1861, GEN George A. Custer's graduating class;
- ≡ U.S. Army War College student papers of such famous generals as Eisenhower, Patton and Schwarzkopf; and
- ≡ The best collection of personal papers and transcribed oral histories of the Army's high command from 1941 to the present.



▲ (Above) The new archival facility has dedicated reading rooms for researchers.

▲ (Top) Historic recruiting posters line the walls of the facility's hallways.

LTC Meredith Bucher is the U.S. Army War College public affairs officer.

Recycling Old



▲ The World War II-era two-story wooden barracks buildings are a familiar sight to generations of Soldiers.

Buildings

Story and Photos by Neal Snyder

“Deconstructing” World-War II-era buildings allows the Army to clear ground needed for other purposes, while at the same time recycling the wood, glass and metals the buildings contain.

MANY Soldiers who have lived in the Army’s old World War-II-era barracks, built at the time as temporary structures, called them “matchsticks,” because over time the wood had literally turned to tinder, say officials at the U.S. Army Environmental Center at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

Drill sergeants at Fort Knox, Ky., told their trainees that the wood posed fire hazards from overheated coal furnaces or discarded cigarettes. And those possibilities kept basic trainees awake during overnight fireguard duty.

In 1998 the Army had some 50 million square feet of old barracks, warehouses, apartments and other



▲ Barracks buildings aren’t the only type of structure that can be recycled — the process works just as well on former office structures.

buildings to eliminate as part of its transformation into the 21st century. Though the Army has reduced that number significantly, thousands of buildings remain, said Sarah Killinger, a spokeswoman for the National Council for Historic Preservation. These include more than 6,000 temporary World War II structures.

When the Defense Department directed the Army to get rid of its excess buildings in 1998, Fort Knox waste managers estimated that the post's construction landfill would be overcome by debris from these old buildings, said Joseph Yates, pollution prevention manager at Fort Knox.

The timber used in the old buildings was solid oak or hard pine. And, to permit many of the old structures to continue to be used, many had been fitted with reusable modern siding, double-paned windows and heating and air-conditioning systems, said Edward Engbert, a USAEC solid-waste technology specialist.

Excess family housing units and warehouses are also treasure troves of brick, structural steel, wooden cabinets and plumbing fixtures, Engbert said.

Up to 90 percent of a building can be recycled — a process called “deconstruction” — whereby a structure is carefully disassembled in the reverse order of the way it was put together, he said.

“Deconstructing unneeded buildings frees money to support Soldier training, reduces the impact on the environment and builds good will in the communities surrounding Army installations,” Engbert said.



▲ Workers remove nails from wood removed from the roof of a warehouse being recycled at Fort Gordon, Ga. The wood can then be used in another roofing project.

◀ SSG Donald Shively of Fort Knox, Ky., holds the tool he designed to remove wood from a deconstruction project with the least damage. Shively has a part-time business selling scrap metal from deconstruction projects.



Installations across the Army are using deconstruction, but Fort Knox takes the process a bit further by auctioning recycling rights to local businesses or individuals.

The remains of buildings are typically sold for between \$25 and \$250, and the successful bidder gets five weeks to recycle materials from the site, Yates said.

Officials at Fort Knox expect the winner to remove at least half of the material or lose the deposit. After six weeks, a demolition crew removes what's left, he said.

Yates said that in the past six years Fort Knox has auctioned the recycling rights to more than 500 World War II-era wooden buildings and more than 900 brick apartment buildings.

The auctions have turned into a part-time business for SSG Donald Shively, a Fort Knox intelligence NCO. He specializes in selling scrap metal from his deconstruction projects and often negotiates with other auction-goers to share the expenses and labor.

A veteran of more than 10 deconstructions, he's used the materials he's purchased to build a shed and put cabinets and windows in a garage. “It's a fairly inexpensive way to do improvements and com-



▲ These buildings at Fort Knox are among many scheduled for deconstruction at posts Armywide.

“Deconstructing unneeded buildings frees money to support Soldier training, reduces the impact on the environment and builds good will in the communities surrounding Army installations.”



plete additions to your own property, as well as help the environment,” Shively said. “One of my sheds was built from wood that’s at least 100 years old.”

Shively and other buyers have kept more than 300,000 tons of material out of the Fort Knox landfill, said Engbert. Besides saving around \$3 million, the deconstruction program has pumped \$500,000 into Fort Knox’s morale, welfare and recreation fund.

It’s meant a lot to the people living around Fort Knox, too. Engbert said entire homes have been built of pieces of old barracks and warehouses, and a campground outside the post exists largely due to recycled materials.

“Eighty-five percent of my construction material comes from deconstruction auctions,” said campground owner Raymond Fultz. The story is the same wherever deconstruction is used.

Fort McCoy, Wis., spokeswoman Linda Fournier said several homes, a church and other structures have been built in the surrounding communities since the installation started selling its World War II wood buildings for deconstruction in 1992. Enough building materials have been recycled through Fort McCoy’s



▲ SGM Steve Walton (Ret.), a deconstruction auctioneer, looks for the next bid during the sale of recycled wood and other materials.

◀ A construction contractor evaluates plumbing fixtures and flooring materials before bidding on the deconstruction rights to former family housing at Fort Knox.

private sales system to reconstruct 300 houses in the local community.

Other installations, including Fort Gordon, Ga., and Fort Campbell, Ky., have held auctions for deconstruction rights.

On a recent auction-day tour at Fort Knox, Shively and other prospective buyers sized up the floors and plumbing. A couple of two-story barracks, which had been outfitted with green-plastic siding, remained.

Shively circled to the back of one building, weighing the value of the cast-iron boiler and pipes. And a couple shopping for building materials went inside, noting that the double-pane windows were sound.

They touched the archways and tried the doors, and checked water damage on a wooden floor that had seen thousands of boots, millions of pushups and gallons upon gallons of paste wax.

That was all over in the mid 1990s, when trainees at Fort Knox were moved out of wooden barracks, which were then only occasionally used by Reserve Soldiers and Boy Scout troops, Fort Knox officials said.

Today Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., and Fort McCoy have set up a few “matchsticks,” as they would have looked when GEN George S. Patton was alive, said Fournier and Maggie Arrant, curator of collections for the Engineer Museum at Fort Leonard Wood.

The Army, with permission from the National Council for Historic Preservation, will gradually eliminate its remaining old wooden buildings, said Killinger. It will also tear down or upgrade family housing units built after World War II. ■



▲ EFMB candidates carry a simulated battle casualty through a smoke-shrouded obstacle course.



▲ A candidate demonstrates how to treat a wound in the field.



▲ Emerging from a mud-filled trench, a candidate scans the area for "enemy" troops.

Medics who wear the Expert Field Medical Badge can proudly say they have passed one of the most difficult tests in the Army. They must begin by scoring at least 75 on a 100-question written test. Then they must demonstrate hands-on skills in evacuation of wounded (including carrying a casualty through an obstacle course), emergency medical treatment, day and night land navigation, and common skills tasks. The hands-on tests have recently been revised to represent a tactical scenario rather than static testing. Those who are successful must then complete a 12-mile road march in less than three hours. During the EFMB testing conducted in 2004 for 101st Airborne Division Soldiers at Fort Campbell, Ky., 246 candidates began but only 36 were successful in earning the badge. 🇺🇸



▲ Medics pull a litter under a low obstacle.



▲ Medics respond to enemy fire while transporting a “casualty” during hands-on testing.

Mail photo submissions for Sharp Shooters to: **Sharp Shooters, Soldiers, 9325 Gunston Road, Ste. S108, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5581**. Digital images should be directed to: lisa.gregory@belvoir.army.mil. All submissions must include an introductory paragraph and captions.

Will Your Family Inherit Problems?



“SHOULD I have a will?” The answer to this often-asked question is a resounding “yes.” The need for Soldiers and government workers to ensure their affairs are

in order was greatly magnified by events following the attack on the Pentagon in 2001.

The military and civilian fatalities left survivors and the federal government with many unresolved legal issues concerning individual personal affairs, ranging from distribution of money and personal property and the dispensation of motor vehicles and other titled property, to deciding ownership of property in shipment or government quarters, to determining custody of children.

The following are some of the factors to be considered in determining the contents of your will:

Steven Chucala is chief of client services in the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate at Fort Belvoir, Va.

The Executor

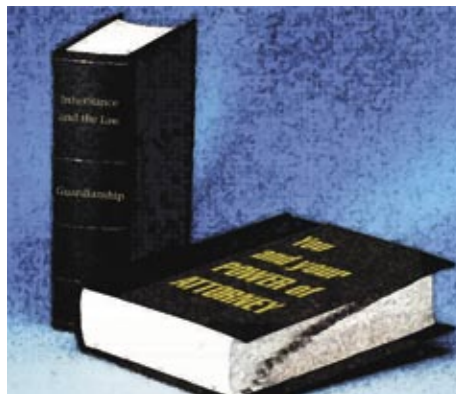
The executor is the deceased’s personal representative; a person who has the legal authority to act on the decedent’s behalf.

○ This is the person recognized to collect monies, pay bills, negotiate drafts, sign releases, transfer ownership or sell property, sue on behalf of the deceased, exercise options, settle litigation, and make distribution of the estate according to the wishes of the deceased.

○ Persons and corporations will not hand over money or property to anyone, including relatives, unless the recipient has legal authority to act on behalf of the deceased. This is because the payer of funds or

property must deal with a person who will provide them with legal immunity against future claimants. Only the executor named in the will can do so.

○ Should court litigation be required because of wrongful death of the deceased — or to collect damages of funds, cause an eviction, file a criminal complaint, etc. — the executor is the proper



party for lawsuits. Monies collected as damages due to a person's wrongful death will be distributed according to the wishes of the deceased as stated in the will.

A Will vs. Power of Attorney

A power of attorney is not a substitute for a will. The POA is terminated at the death of the principal, and the will executed by the deceased's personal representative is put in force.

Monetary Considerations

Two major portions of a will cover the settling of debts and the distribution of inheritances.

○ The manner of debt satisfaction, the offset of monies owed by beneficiaries to the deceased, the primary and alternate beneficiaries and necessary periods of survivorship in order to inherit, the scheme of distribution, specific gifts and life estates with remaining beneficiaries are among the items to be addressed, based on the size and complexity of the estate.

○ Protection of inheritance is provided by declaring whether inheritances shall come under a testamentary trust or the Uniform Gift to Minors Act.

Guardianship

For most parents, the most important reason to create a will is to ensure the well-being and protection of their underage children. A will identifies

who will act as guardian for these children, and how that duty will be carried out.

A Will or a Living Trust?

A will is much cheaper to create and administer than a living trust. In most states, a layman may probate the will without an attorney. And remember: legal-assistance attorneys prepare wills for Soldiers, retirees and their family members at no cost.

○ Contrary to popular belief, not every will must be probated. In a typical married relationship in which the property is jointly held, a will is not normally probated upon the death of the first


spouse, since there may be nothing to accomplish by the will. When the second spouse dies, the will may then become the vehicle to transfer ownership of property, create a testamentary trust, appoint a guardian, etc., and will require the simple process of probate.

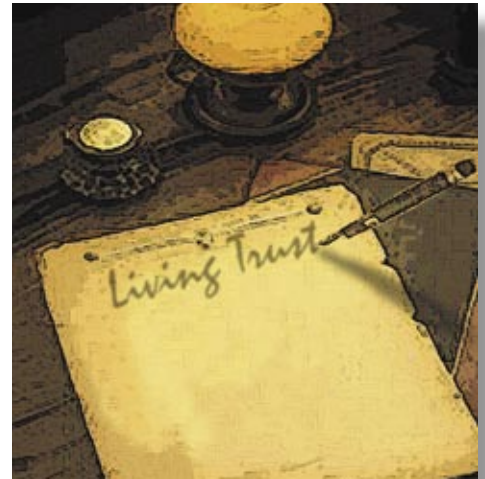
○ Most clients seeking living trusts to avoid estate taxes do not truly need the trust to avoid taxation. For example, federal estate taxation exemption for 2005 is \$1 million per person. Further, if you are above that tax-exemption level, a single taxpayer or a person who is a widow or widower cannot avoid taxation by creating a living trust. Also, the costs to create a trust are normally several thousand dollars and they do not include the fees needed after death to transfer ownership of property and other assets covered by the trust.

○ Also, trusts do not provide for the various authorities provided by a will. Therefore, even if a living trust is appropriate, a will must also be created to augment the trust. When action needs to be taken, lacking a will necessitates the cumbersome process of going through court under the law of intestacy to have the court appoint an administrator, with distribution and rules established by the state legislature.

What Remains

Lastly, the deceased's wishes for a funeral and burial can be outlined in the will. The type of ceremony, whether cremation or burial is desired, the cemetery of choice, and other personal wishes can be specified to avoid having these individual decisions burden the next of kin.

As a legal-assistance officer I always advise Soldiers and their adult family members to have a will. If you do not care about your estate or next of kin, you cannot be forced to have a will. But should a will be desired by active-duty or retired military personnel and their eligible family members, legal-assistance attorneys are available to provide this valuable benefit at no cost. 



Prepare Your Will Now!

MILITARY CHANNEL



It's New!

THE MILITARY CHANNEL

DISCOVERY Communications Inc. recently introduced a new channel dedicated to all things military.

The Military Channel replaces the Discovery Wings Channel, which focused exclusively on aviation. The network's lineup of series and specials will take viewers "behind the lines" to experience a world full of human drama, courage, innovation and tradition as it offers in-depth explorations of military technology, battlefield strategy, aviation and history.

"Our viewers have a deep interest in military topics and people," said David Karp, senior vice president and general manager of the channel. "Our mission is to tap into this passion by providing a high-quality lens that details contemporary and historical events, explores human elements and highlights the strategic and technological advances that define the world of the armed forces."

The channel is available nationwide on digital cable and satellite. — *Discovery Channel*



PLAN A GETAWAY

NEED a vacation? The Government and Armed Forces Travel Cooperative provides leisure and vacation services for government and military personnel, including retirees. Services include condominium rentals, cruises, vehicle rental and hotel reservations, golf discounts and vacation packages.

Check out airfares, accommodations and vacation specials at govarm.com. While you're there, sign up for bi-weekly updates. A portion of GOVARM's proceeds goes to support morale, welfare and recreation offices.

BETTER PAY SYSTEM FOR SOLDIERS

THE Defense Finance and Accounting Service has begun phasing in a new, more reliable and effective pay system, called the Forward Compatible Payroll. The new system promises fewer errors, an easy-to-understand Leave and Earnings Statement, and instantaneous adjustments to pay records.

The current payroll scheme, called Defense Joint Military Pay System, is actually two systems — one for active-duty and another for reserve-component forces. The two are compatible only with enormous effort, according to DFAS officials.

FCP "should have a huge impact on our efficiency in providing pay services," said Sue Schallenberg, director of DFAS' Military Pay Operations Transition Group.

Phase-in began with the Army Reserve and National Guard in March and will be followed by the active duty in July. — *Military Update*



Money

Leisure

Trauma

INVISIBLE WOUNDS OF WAR

GUNSHOT wounds are obvious injuries, but the mental effects of war can be just as devastating.

Warfighters are more likely to need help for combat-related depression six months after returning to their regular assignments than they are immediately upon their return, according to screening recently done by the U.S. Army Medical Research Unit, Europe, on Soldiers returning to their base in Italy.

People who experience extreme emotional stress or physical injury often have trauma symptoms and problems afterward. How serious the symptoms and problems are depends on many things, including a person's life experiences before the trauma, the seriousness of the trauma, the individual's ability to cope with stress, and the kind of support a person gets from family, friends and professionals immediately following the trauma.

Because most trauma survivors are not familiar with how trauma affects people, they often have trouble understanding what is happening to them and linking their symptoms to PTSD. They may experience extreme guilt, they may believe they are going crazy or that there is something wrong with them because other people with the same experiences don't appear to have the same problems.

Trying to avoid thinking about the trauma and avoiding treatment for trauma-related problems may keep a person from feeling upset in the short term, but avoiding treatment leads to persisting symptoms over time.

Information on managing stress and recovering from trauma is available for veterans with PTSD and their families at www.ncptsd.org. The Web site also offers links to the Department of Veterans' Affairs and specialized PTSD clinics and programs that can provide diagnostic evaluations. — *Army News Service and National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder*



Remember

HOLOCAUST ON MAY 6

HOLOCAUST Remembrance Day is set aside for remembering the victims of the Holocaust and for reminding Americans of what can happen to civilized people when bigotry, hatred and indifference reign.

The Holocaust was the state-sponsored, systematic persecution and annihilation of European Jewry by Nazi Germany and its collaborators between 1933 and 1945. While Jews were the primary victims — six million were murdered — Gypsies, communists and the handicapped were also killed. Millions more, including homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses, Soviet prisoners of war and political dissidents also suffered grievous oppression and death under Nazi tyranny.

As allied troops moved across Europe in a series of offensives on Germany, they began to encounter and liberate concentration-camp prisoners, many of whom had survived death marches into the nation's interior. U.S. forces liberated camps in Buchenwald, Dora-Mittelbau, Flossenbürg, Dachau and Mauthausen in April and May of 1945.

The Holocaust is not merely a story of destruction and loss. It is a story of the human spirit and the life that flourished before the Holocaust, struggled during its darkest hours and ultimately prevailed as survivors rebuilt their lives.

For more information about the Holocaust, an introduction and online exhibits by the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., or suggestions for observing Remembrance Day, visit www.ushmm.org. — *United States Holocaust Memorial Museum*




Leave No Soldier Behind

Story by MSG Lisa Gregory



The final rays of sunset filter through a team of scouts from the 1st Armored Division's 1st Cavalry Brigade as they move to a landing zone to await pick up by a Black Hawk helicopter during combat search-and-rescue training during exercise Victory Strike III.

SFC Lek Mateo

The background of the page is a photograph showing the silhouettes of two soldiers in the foreground, facing right. They are in a field, and the background is a dramatic sky at sunset or sunrise, with a bright sun low on the horizon creating a strong glow and long shadows. The sky is filled with soft, white and orange-tinted clouds. The soldiers are wearing helmets and carrying equipment, their forms dark against the bright sky.

A PILLAR of black smoke drifts over the horizon and a chilling call comes over the radio: “aircraft down.”

The infantrymen are already on their feet, heading in the direction of the smoke. They advance on the aircraft and pull the pilot to safety as enemy fire erupts in their direction.

While this could well be a scene from a movie, the potential for the actual rescue of isolated, detained or captured personnel is very real in the war on terrorism. To help bolster their confidence if faced with a life-threatening situation, Soldiers are learning the importance of accountability on the battlefield and to leave no one behind.

The Army Personnel Recovery Office is working to develop the training Soldiers need to perform immediate battlefield rescue operations. In 1996 the Department of Defense established policy and issued instructions relating to the recovery of missing persons.

“When people think of personnel-recovery or rescue operations they immediately think they need special equipment,” said LTC Doug Smith, Army Personnel Recovery Office senior analyst. “There’s more to it than equipment. Commanders need to be aware that even at the lowest level they’re capable of conducting or assisting in a rescue or recovery operation. That’s why the Army is stepping up its efforts to communicate that from the senior leadership to the individual Soldier on the battlefield.”

U.S. Army, South; U.S. Army, Central; and U.S. Army, Europe, have taken an aggressive role in making sure the importance of personnel recovery is communicated to all Soldiers, civilians and contractors preparing for deployment to those theaters of operation.

“Our Soldiers travel and perform missions in some very dangerous locations around the world,” said Doug-

(continued on page 42)



▲ 1LT Michael Rovins of Co. E, 5th Bn., 158th Avn. Regt., smears charcoal on his face while awaiting "rescue" during the search-and-rescue exercise.



"Understanding the personnel-recovery plan, both individually and collectively, will allow Soldiers to help themselves..."

(Continued from page 41)

Ian Sanders, director of USARSO's Rescue Coordination Center. "It's imperative that we provide them the best preparation possible during the predeployment process."

USARSO conducted numerous mission studies to accurately determine where Soldiers would be and the threat conditions they would face.

"We now incorporate personnel-recovery training into all predeployment preparations and conduct the training twice a month to ensure Soldiers' training remains current up to the time they deploy," said Sanders.

"What we've done with personnel-recovery training is a model to help incorporate the training Armywide," he said.

To bolster the idea behind personnel recovery and get commanders more involved in the process, the Center for Army Analysis invited personnel from each major command to participate in a table-top personnel-recovery exercise.

"Participating in Exercise Mercury '04 gave us at Forces Command the opportunity to see Army doctrine evolve," said LTC William Leary of FORSCOM's Aviation Division. "The exercise demonstrated the Army's resolve to let Soldiers know they will not be left behind. For me, that and the PR matrix were the most valuable part of the training."

This exercise was the first of many in which commanders and staff personnel worked together using lessons learned from current operations to realize the value of communication, coordination and training.

Units in V Corps, which have dealt with personnel-recovery missions during Operation Iraqi Freedom, are assisting other commanders in the training process.

"V Corps Soldiers have participated in hundreds of personnel-recovery missions in Iraq," said COL Sean MacFarland, V Corps operations officer, "and today we're sharing those

experiences with the rest of the Army."

One important function in the personnel-recovery process, and sometimes the toughest for commanders on the battlefield, is accountability. As Soldiers move around the battlefield, commanders need to devise ways to track and account for them. Soldiers need to understand those methods, too. With personnel-recovery training and education, Soldiers will be able to feel confident, regardless of the situation they may find themselves in.

"Personnel recovery is a function of planning, preparation and accountability. When leaders have a plan, and their personnel comply with that plan, the likelihood of isolation can be reduced," Leary said.

Leaders need to account for their Soldiers, said Smith. "If someone is missing, the leader needs to report it immediately, so action can be taken. That's always important, but even more so in a battlefield situation where there is the possibility of a Soldier be-



▲ Black Hawks of Co. C take off from Miroslawiec Air Base, Poland, on a simulated combat search-and-rescue mission.

ing isolated, detained or captured. For personnel recovery to work, leaders need to prepare and rehearse, and report absences quickly so action can be taken to recover the missing Soldier.”

As part of accountability, those responsible for personnel-recovery work closely with the intelligence community to track and monitor reports and situations in which Soldiers may have become isolated from their units.

“Everyone is vulnerable in battle, and when staffs see that, they realize the need to work together,” said COL Jose Olivero of the Military Office of Special Operations. “That’s why the intelligence community is stepping up its role in personnel recovery.”

Understanding the personnel-recovery plan, both individually and collectively, will allow Soldiers to help themselves if they’re ever in a situation that requires a personnel-recovery response, Sanders said. “If Soldiers are taken hostage or captured, the personnel-recovery program and training will have been worth the effort to ensure their survival.” ■



▲ Having evaded “capture,” Rovins makes contact with the crew of the Black Hawk coming to his “rescue.”



▲ SFC Daniel Pinion of the 1st Cav. Regt. helps “downed aviator” CW2 Shaun Cusic of the 3rd Bn., 158th Avn. Regt., into a waiting Black Hawk as another Soldier provides rear security.

Science on the Battlefield

Story and Photos by
SSG Lorie Jewell



With a weapons platform mounted on a Talon robot, the SWORDS system allows Soldiers to fire small arms by remote control from as far away as 1,000 meters. The system may soon be used in Iraq.

ARMED robots, liquid body armor, bendable computer screens and uniforms with virtual-reality capabilities — what once could have been fodder for science-fiction novels is now shaping how future Soldiers will fight.

Many of the ideas and technologies that are already being used on today's battlefield, or are due to arrive soon, were being displayed and discussed at this year's Army Science Conference.

One such system, the Special Weapons Observation Reconnaissance Detection System, or SWORDS, will be joining Stryker Brigade Soldiers in Iraq after final testing, said SSG Santiago Tordillos of the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technology Directorate of the Army's Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center at Picatinny Arsenal, N.J.

"We're hoping to have these systems in Iraq by early 2005," Tordillos said. "The Soldiers I've talked to want them yesterday."

SSG Lorie Jewell is with the office for Operation Tribute to Freedom and writes for the Army News Service.

A New Robot Fighter

The SWORDS system consists of a weapon system mounted on a Talon robot, a product of the engineering and technology development firm Foster-Miller. The Talon began helping with military operations in Bosnia in 2000, deployed to Afghanistan in early 2002 and has been in Iraq since the war started, assisting with improvised explosive device detection and removal. Talon robots have been used in about 20,000 missions in Iraq and Afghanistan, according to Foster-Miller reports.

"It's not a new invention, its just bringing together existing systems," said Tordillos, who has been involved with the project since its inception about a year and a half ago.



(Above) SSG Santiago Tordillos operates an armed Talon robot on the exhibit hall floor at the 24th Science Conference. (Below) Tordillos uses two joy sticks on a control panel, tracking the robot's movements on a small screen.

Different weapons can be interchanged on the system — the M-16, the M-2, M-240 and M-249 machine guns, or the M-202A1 with a 66mm rocket launcher. Soldiers operate the SWORDS by remote control from up to 1,000 meters away.

"In testing, it's hit bulls eyes from as far as 2,000 meters away. The only margin of error has been in sighting," Tordillos said.

The system uses AC power, lithium batteries or SINCGARS rechargeable batteries. The control box weighs about 30 pounds, and has a daylight-viewable screen and two joysticks that control the robot platform and the weapon.

Four SWORDS currently exist, and 18 have been requested for service in Iraq, Tordillos said. Each system costs about \$230,000 to produce, said Bob Quinn, lead integrator for the project. When they go into production, Quinn



estimates the cost per unit will drop to \$150,000 to \$180,000.

Tordillos fielded a variety of questions while showing off the system at the conference. Soldiers wanted to know what MOS they need in order to work with the system. There is no specific MOS for it, Tordillos said.

Others asked if Tordillos envisions a time when armed robots will outnumber humans on the battlefield.

"You'll never be able to eliminate the Soldier on the ground," he said. "There will be a mix, but there will certainly always be Soldiers out there."



Sensor-based Soldiers

Thermal sensors woven into the fabric of the uniform control its temperature, based on the Soldier's environment. An on-board respirator, tethered to the Soldier's back, provides a continuous supply of fresh air – eliminating the need for a protective mask. Should the Soldier have the visor up, or the helmet off, and breathe in some kind of harmful agent, the uniform sensor would immediately detect it, release tiny embedded capsules to counter it and inject treatment into the Soldier's body.

From the waist down, a skeletal system will allow Soldiers to carry two or three times their body weight.

Soldiers may soon be wearing liquid cooling vests under their body armor and uniforms. The vests are cooled through a connection to a Humvee's operating system.



Liquid Armor Protection

The uniform might be made out of fabric treated with another technology featured during the conference, shear thickening fluid. Unofficially referred to by some as liquid body armor, STF is made of equal parts polyethylene glycol – an inert, non-toxic thickening agent used in a variety of common products, including ice cream – and miniscule glass particles, said Eric Wetzel, who heads the STF project team in the Weapons and Materials Research Directorate of the U.S. Army Research Laboratory.

In a small glass vial, the light blue liquid is easily stirred with a small plastic stick – as long as the stick is moving in slow, easy motion. When rapid or forceful motion is applied, the liquid instantly hardens, preventing any movement.

STF has been applied to regular Kevlar material, Wetzel said. The fabric's texture doesn't change; it looks and feels the same as if it hadn't been treated. Using a test swatch of four layers of untreated Kevlar – the normal thickness of body armor – Wetzel is able to stab an ice pick through the fabric. But when stabbing a treated section of fabric with all the force he can muster, the ice pick dents the fabric but can't penetrate it.

Research is being done into whether STF can be of use to the Army, Wetzel said. If it is, Soldiers may start getting gear treated with it in about two years.



Shear thickening fluid, sometimes known as liquid body armor, is made of tiny glass particles and polyethylene glycol.

An ice pick was used to penetrate a piece of Kevlar fabric treated with shear thickening fluid.

Warriors in 2025?

SSG Raul Lopez, an infantryman stationed at the Natick Soldier Center in Massachusetts, spent four days during the conference in what could be the Army uniform of the future.

Dressed in black and wearing a helmet that allowed barely a glimpse of his face, Lopez looked like something from a science-fiction movie.

He explained that the fabric of the form-fitting suit would be made through the wonder of nanotechnology, which involves manipulating atoms and molecules to create things at a scale about 50,000 times smaller than the diameter of a strand of hair. Soldiers wearing the suit would have the ability to blend into any environment, like chameleons.


The helmet he wore is envisioned as the main hub of the uniform, where “all of the action happens,” Lopez said. A tiny video camera on the helmet provides 360-degree situational awareness. A series of sensors gives the Soldier three-dimensional hearing and the ability to amplify specific sounds, while lowering the volume of others.

Complete voice translation is also provided for what Soldiers hear and say. Night-vision sensors, minimized to the size of pencil erasers, are also in the helmet. Maps and other situational-awareness information are projected on the inside of the visor, while everything the Soldier sees and hears is sent in real time up to higher headquarters.

“It’s all voice activated,” Lopez said. “I can tell it to show me where my buddies are, and it projects the information on the visor.”

Excellence in Research

Representatives from 31 countries – including Canada, the United Kingdom, Argentina, South Korea, Australia and Singapore — attended the conference for the first time.

Brig. Gen. Peter Holt of Canada’s Defence Research and Development agency believes the working relationship among scientists, engineers and researchers has been beneficial to all concerned, and that the benefits of collaboration are already on the battlefield. 



SSG Raul Lopez models a conceptual version of a Soldier's uniform for the year 2025.

A Step **Back** in **Time**

AFTER winning a music competition in Hohenfels, Germany, **SSG Andrew Roff's** alter ego, **Drew Starr**, emerged. A one-man band, Rock-a-Billy music-playing phenomenon, Star is a "1950's rock-n-roll teen idol who loves to be alive," Roff said.

Roff, a 10-year Army combat-documentation specialist and training developer at the Signal Corps Regimental NCO Academy Detachment at Fort Meade, Md., said music was a part of his life long before he joined the military.

"Once I joined the Army, I put music aside and concentrated on my military job," he said.

However, his desire to play music kept calling him. He said he joined several Soldier bands that played at unit functions. But changes of duty stations and deployments kept interrupting.

Finally, after being coaxed by Ken Baldwin, who worked at the Hohenfels Community Activity Center organizing local morale, welfare and recreation events, Roff decided on the one-man band concept.

"I got a kick-drum, tied a tambourine to it and, together with a guitar and vocals, worked on playing two songs," said Roff. A few weeks later he won first place during the "Battle of the Bands" competition in Hohenfels and shortly after that won second place at the USAREUR competition.

"These were the first gigs for Drew Star," said Roff. "I owe everything to Ken Baldwin, who really did encourage me not to give up on music."

Today Roff plays more than 70 songs from what he calls the "Rock-a-Billy genre," and has recorded his own CD.

"The first time I saw him perform I was in awe," said SSG Brad Swayne, who works at the NCO Academy. "It was during a formal dining-in. He just got up wearing his Class-A uniform and began clapping and soon

had the whole crowd clapping to Elvis' 'GI Blues'," said Swayne. "I was impressed by his self-confidence and his talent."

Roff now only plays during unit organizational events or other unit functions. His immediate goal is to digitally re-master recordings of local Maryland bands.

"Rock 'n' roll music was a fusion of different musical styles in America that bridged all our cultural gaps and, once bridged, bound us all together," he said. "I wish the whole world would allow music to bridge all our cultural differences." 🇺🇸

"I wish the whole world would allow music to bridge all our cultural differences."



Former Soldiers staffer SFC Alberto Betancourt is a small-group instructor at the Signal Corps Regimental NCO Academy Detachment at Fort Meade, Md.



YOUR NEW TITLE: SECOND LIEUTENANT



Become a leader in the Army National Guard – apply to Officer Candidate School. Wear the gold bar of a Second Lieutenant. Enjoy the respect, challenges and benefits of a commissioned officer. In the Army National Guard, YOU CAN!



YOU CAN

1-800-GO-GUARD - www.1-800-GO-GUARD.com

**LOTS OF PEOPLE JOIN THE
ARMY TO FIND THEMSELVES.
SOME END UP FINDING
A WHOLE FAMILY.**



©2004, Paid for by the United States Army. All rights reserved.

AN ARMY OF ONE®



There are thousands of good reasons to reenlist. SPC Christopher Webb did it for the camaraderie. Having grown up as a foster child, he never was a part of anything that lasted. But the family he's found in the Army changed that. He's got true brothers now. And if any of them have to be out there in the field, the only place he wants to be is right there with them.

TALK WITH YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR TODAY ABOUT HOW TO ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS